

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 303 without my signature.

My Administration is concerned about the inappropriate use of psychotherapeutic medications, especially antipsychotics, in skilled nursing facilities. One recent study concluded that over half of the residents receiving antipsychotic therapy were being treated outside the current Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service guidelines.

I have instructed my Department of Public Health to identify providers that may be inappropriately prescribing these medications and thereby posing a threat to the health and safety of residents in skilled nursing facilities. If the department's analysis indicates that such inappropriate prescribing behavior is occurring and recommends statutory changes in this area, I ask the Legislature to immediately seek changes to correct it.

I thank the author for bringing this issue to my Administration's attention and will continue to monitor this closely.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger